

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 3-8, 10, 12 and 20 as follows:

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3.(Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet [as recited in claim 1] of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
- b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the dual sockets of the receptacle;

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- c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;
 - d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;
 - e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;
 - f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;

g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle; and

h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle, wherein each said shield is a T-shaped slide panel having a pair of outwardly extending tabs and a main flat body with a pair of integral parallel legs in which each said leg extends from one said tab adjacent said main flat body.

4.(Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet [as recited in claim 1] of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in

the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;

b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the dual sockets of the receptacle;

c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate, wherein said guiding means includes[:]
an H-shaped cross member integrally formed centrally on said front face of said back cover plate; and a pair of vertically spaced apart side guide rails integrally formed in said front face of said back cover plate on opposite sides of said H-shaped cross member;

d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;

- e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;
- f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;
- g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle; and
- h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle.

5.(Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet [as recited in claim 1] of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

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- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
 - b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the dual sockets of the receptacle;
 - c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

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cont.
- d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, wherein said biasing means includes[:] two studs integrally formed in said front face of said back cover plate; and four springs in which two said springs are connected between said upper shield and said two studs, while other two said springs are connected between said lower shield and said two studs;
- e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;
- f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;

g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle; and

h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle.

Claim 6, line 2, please change "1" to --3--.

7.(Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet [as recited in claim 1] of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;

- b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the dual sockets of the receptacle;
- c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;
- d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;
- e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;

- f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;
- g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle, wherein said upper shield engaging means includes[:] said upper shield having three depressions in a front face thereof simulating a hot slot, neutral slot and ground slot of the upper socket of the receptacle, for engagement by the hot blade, neutral blade and ground prong of [an] the electrical plug; and said front cover plate having three vertical slots extending upwardly from said upper aperture and in alignment with said three depressions in said upper shield, to allow the electrical plug to raise said upper shield to its uppermost position; and
- h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle.

8.(Amended) A safety device for an electrical outlet [as recited in claim 1] of the type including an outlet box in a wall for maintaining a receptacle having vertically aligned dual sockets and a central threaded opening between the sockets for receiving a cover plate screw, said safety device comprising:

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- a) a back cover plate having upper and lower vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box, when said back cover plate is positioned over the outlet box;
 - b) upper and lower shields sized to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate, to prevent access to the dual sockets of the receptacle;
 - c) means on a front face of said back cover plate for guiding said upper shield to move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate, and said lower shield to move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate;

- d) means for biasing said shields on said front face of said back cover plate, so as to normally position said shields to obstruct said apertures in said back cover plate;
- e) a front cover plate having a pair of vertically aligned apertures therethrough with a central hole between said apertures, said apertures being shaped and positioned to correspond to the dual sockets, while said central hole aligned with the central threaded opening of the receptacle in the outlet box;
- f) means for mating said front cover plate to said back cover plate over said shields, so that the cover plate screw can engage with the central threaded opening in the receptacle to hold said safety device thereto;
- g) means for engaging said upper shield through said upper aperture in said front cover plate, so that said upper shield can move upwardly away from said upper aperture in said back cover plate to expose the upper socket of the receptacle; and

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h) means for engaging said lower shield through said lower aperture in said front cover plate, so that said lower shield can move downwardly away from said lower aperture in said back cover plate to expose the lower socket of the receptacle, wherein said lower shield engaging means includes[:] said lower shield having three depressions in a front face thereof simulating a hot slot, neutral slot and ground slot of the lower socket of the receptacle, for engagement by the hot blade, neutral blade and ground prong of [an] the electrical plug; and said front cover plate having three vertical slots extending downwardly from said lower aperture and in alignment with said three depressions in said lower shield to allow the electrical plug to lower said lower shield to its lowermost position.

Claim 10, line 10, please delete "two"; and
line 16, please change "an" to --said--.

Clasim 12, line 8, please change "a pair of" to --upper and lower--; and
line 17, please change "a pair of" to --upper and lower--.

Claim 20, line 10, please delete "two"; and
line 16, please change "an" to --said--.